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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 18 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter from His Excellency Mr. Dobrica Cosić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador,
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 17 January 1993 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

At a time when progress was made at the Geneva Conference and when significant peacemaking decisions that would contribute to the termination of the tragedy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are pending, it is with extreme concern that I wish to inform you of the aggression of Moslem forces yesterday, on 16 January, against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As part of a general offensive in the area of the Serbian municipality of Bratunac, in the early morning hours of 16 January, Moslem forces surrounded a number of Serbian villages and massacred the civilian population and then opened artillery fire on the dam of the "Perućac" Hydro-power Station on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, intending to cause an ecological catastrophe. Owing to the gravity of the situation, members of the Army of Yugoslavia, who are defending the dam, fired a few warning shots. However, the Moslem forces did not cease firing at the dam of the Power Station, but also opened strong concentric fire on the crew of the Army of Yugoslavia at the "Perućac" watchtower and thereafter on the town of Bajina Bašta, which is on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Besides direct aggression on facilities and troops on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Moslem army opened strong fire on the access routes to the bridge near the village of Skelani and the bridge itself, over which the civilian population was fleeing and over which the wounded and killed were being evacuated. The Moslem infantry penetrated to the bridge itself and threatened to prevent the evacuation and massacre the refugees, the wounded and the killed, and several members of the Moslem army crossed over to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Under such circumstances, the units of the Army of Yugoslavia took the necessary countermeasures. Further action of the Moslem army was prevented by artillery fire, as well as the continuation of the massacre of the civilian population and the wounded in the region of the bridge near the village of Skelani. This enabled the evacuation of the refugees, and of 150 wounded and 46 people killed to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, this tragic result is not final, since battles in the region of Bratunac and Skelani are still going on and Moslem forces again this morning, on 17 January, opened fire on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which means that they are not desisting from their aggressive intentions and the ethnic cleansing of the Serbian population on the left bank of the Brina river.

Mr. Secretary-General, I have described these events to enable you to get a true picture of the extent of the crimes committed against the civilian population and of the degree of the aggression against the territory of the

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Such a situation calls for the taking of adequate measures in order to prevent the further escalation of the conflict, aimed at forcibly drawing Yugoslavia into the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and provoking an international armed intervention. On this occasion also, I am faced with the tragic fact that there are many in the world who do not care about the truth on the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. How else can one interpret the fact that many TV stations refused the offer made by TV Serbia to broadcast, within programme exchanges, the authentic pictures of the consequences of the operations of the Moslem army and thus objectively inform the public of their countries. Need I emphasize that the majority of these countries are directly involved in the resolving of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, where the Serbian people are first satanized, then placed in a ghetto of sorts, then given ultimatums and put on trial in advance.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has on numerous occasions drawn attention to the Moslem war objectives and their unscrupulous political methods. Regrettably, international political forums have not taken our warnings into consideration so far. On the contrary, the biased and one-sided behaviour of certain international factors encouraged and continues to encourage the Moslem side to aggressive and provocative conduct in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian civil and religious conflict. The constant application of double standards in relation to the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has resulted even in the disregard of the presence of regular troops of the Army of the Republic of Croatia on the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the combat flights of its Air Force. Such behaviour directly prevents the reaching of a peaceful solution for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Simultaneously, the Serbian people as a whole are systematically demonized in the media of certain countries and in the statements of their most responsible officials, this practically amounting to racism and overt warmongering.

I wish to emphasize that, in spite of the constant efforts to jeopardize the peace process, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia not only will not give up, but will intensify its efforts for putting an end to the suffering of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and arriving at a just political solution and ensuring lasting peace.

I am convinced that we will continue enjoying your support and assistance in the struggle for peace and the truth, and that you will bring your influence and authority to bear in order to remove the danger threatening to interrupt the initiated peace process and invalidate the efforts and results accomplished so far.

I should kindly like to ask you to transmit this letter to the United Nations Security Council as an official document.